

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 00769 052322Z

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ACTION AF-05

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6312

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, EAID, MA, US

SUBJECT: RENEWAL NASA STATION AGREEMENT

REF: TANANARIVE 0538

BEGIN SUMMARY: MINISTER TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT GENERAL ANDRIAMAHAZO STATES GOMR NOW READY TO RESUME NEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENT FOR EXTENSION NASA STATION, BUT CAUTIONS ABOUT CONTINUING NEED TO AVOID LEAKS OR PUBLICITY UNTIL NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDED. END SUMMARY.

1. SINCE END FY-74 IS NOW PRESSING DOWN ON US, I CALLED ON MINISTER TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT GENERAL ANDRIAMAHAZO JUNE 5 TO DETERMINE HOW GOMR STANDS ON RESUMPTION NEGOTIATIONS EXTENDING NASA STATION AGREEMENT AND CONCLUSION RAILROAD LOAN AGREEMENT.

2. ANDRIAMAHAZO REPLIED GOMR READY RESUME NASA STATION NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN EMBASSY AND GOMR WORKING GROUP. ADDED HE WOULD HAVE SECRETARY GENERAL MINISTRY TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT (CHIEF OF GOMR WORKING-LEVEL TEAM) TELEPHONE DCM BEFORE THIS WEEK IS OUT TO ARRANGE FOR RESUMPTION OF TALKS. STRESSED DESIRABILITY OF CONTINUING BE EXTREMELY DISCREET DURING NEGOTIATIONS TO AVOID ANY LEAKS OR PUBLICITY UNTIL THEY CONCLUDED.

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PAGE 02 TANANA 00769 052322Z

IATIONS TO AVOID ANY LEAKS OR PUBLICITY UNTIL THEY CONCLUDED.

POINTED TO ANTI-NASA STATION CARTOON AND ARTICLE ON FIRST PAGE OF JUNE 5 EDITION OF AKFM SATIRICAL DAILY "HEHY," AND SAID HE WOULD CALL IN OWNER (WHO IS RELATIVE OF MRS. ANDRIAMHAZO) TO SET HIM STRAIGHT.

3. I TOLD ANDRIAMHAZO WE PROPOSE BRIEF GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT EXTENDING BASIC NASA ACCORD AND PROVIDING FOR MALAGASIZATION OF STATION, AND WOULD BE PREPARED PRESENT TEXT IN WORKING GROUP FOR DISCUSSION.

4. I ADDED THAT SEPARATE CONTRACT WE ENVISAGE BETWEEN NASA AND MALAGASY COOPERATING AGENCY (WHICH HE CONFIRMED WOULD BE PTT) WOULD BE DETAILED DOCUMENT REQUIRING PRESENCE OF NASA NEGOTIATOR FROM WASHINGTON. I SAID THAT FROM OUR STANDPOINT IT WOULD NOT BE ESSENTIAL THAT THIS CONTRACT BE NEGOTIATED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT ON NASA STATION OR RAILROAD LOAN. I DID MAKE CLEAR, HOWEVER (ON BASIS POINTS MADE TO ME BY CHARLES TAYLOR OF NASA DURING VISIT LAST WEEK TO TANANARIVE), THAT NASA NEEDS BE ABLE INITIATE CONSULTATIONS AT EARLY DATE WITH COOPERATING AGENCY FOR SELECTION OF 4-6 ADDITIONAL MALAGASY ENGINEERS AND MALAGASY MANAGER FOR TRAINING IF TARGET DATE FOR MALAGASIZATION OF STATION TO BE MET.

5. I DID NOT SPECIFICALLY RAISE WITH ANDRIAMHAZO TAYLOR'S POINT THAT NASA WOULD LIKE TO PAY RENTAL OF \$100,000 EACH FOR 1973 AND 1974 OUT OF FY-74 FUNDS (AS I ASSUME, IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, THAT AGREEMENT ON EXTENSION STATION SHOULD BE CONCLUDED PRIOR JUNE 30 AND IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE PROCEED WITH RENTAL PAYMENTS BY THAT DATE).

6. I ALSO BROUGHT TO ANDRIAMHAZO'S ATTENTION AVAILABILITY AT NASA STATION OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT (OVER AND ABOVE SURPLUS COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED WITH GOMR IN CONTEXT OF STATION NEGOTIATIONS) WITH ACQUISITION VALUE OF ABOUT \$1 MILLION. I SUGGESTED ANDRIAMHAZO MIGHT WISH HAVE EXPERTS FROM HIS MINISTRY EXAMINE EQUIPMENT TO SEE WHETHER IT IS OF INTEREST TO GOMR, AND HE AGREED DO SO. I PUT HIM ON NOTICE THAT PART OF THIS EQUIPMENT (SUCH AS COMPUTER) IS NOT AND CANNOT BE PLACED IN OPERABLE CONDITION, BUT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR CANNIBALIZATION OR TRAINING.

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PAGE 03 TANANA 00769 052322Z

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